

# LOCAL JUNIOR BASEBALL TEAM HEADS TO ORLANDO

**BY LOCAL TALK STAFF**

The Monte Irvin Youth Baseball Program is heading to Orlando, Florida on July 25th for the 21st Annual Metropolitan Junior Baseball League (MJBL) Inner City Classic/Black World Series. The Metropolitan Junior Baseball League, Inc. (MJBL) is a non-profit organization out of Richmond, Virginia that was formed in 1966. MJBL launched its Inner City Classic in Columbia, SC. It was designed to provide urban youth the opportunity to travel to other cities, compete in the game of baseball and to be exposed to diverse cultures. More than 70 teams and 1,200 youth between the ages of 8 to 19 will participate in this tournament. MJBL is spread out in 20 states. The Bahamas, Puerto Rico and Dominican Republic offer the largest minority youth baseball championships in the country. Monte Irvin will send three teams (12U, 14U & 16U) to this year's Classic.

"All of our teams have really worked hard this year and they are excited about the opportunity to travel to Orlando and be part of this great tournament for the third consecutive year," said Monte Irvin Commissioner Dianne Szczepanik.

Monte Irvin teams are having their final tune-up games beginning July 18th at Metcalf Park and Monte Irvin field at Central Playground as a part of the Suburban Summer league. Suburban league games are open to the public and any donation to help the kids get to Orlando will be greatly appreciated.

On Friday July 22, 2011 beginning at 6:00pm the Orange Elks, located at 475 Main Street, Orange New Jersey, will host a send-off celebration for the players and their families to wish them the best of luck in the tournament. In addition to the tournament, Classic participants are scheduled to go to Universal Studios. High school age participants will be offered a tour of the University of Central Florida and be introduced to students and teachers of the sports business department. Florida A&M University will also offer a tour of its law school with a focus on sports law.

Mayor Eldridge Hawkins, Jr. said, "This will be a once in a lifetime trip for many of our youth. It may be the only opportunity for many of them to have the Florida experience, meet other kids from across the country and play competitive baseball."

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